

## Questions and Answers

### CURRENT WATER ISSUES

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA and Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline: **1-800-426-4791**.

### IS MY WATER HARD OR SOFT?

Hardness describes the level of the dissolved natural minerals (calcium and magnesium) in drinking water. These minerals are an important part of a healthy diet. Hard water contains more mineral nutrients and less sodium. A gradual build-up of calcium and magnesium in hard water can form harmless, filmy white deposits on faucets, bathtubs, and tea kettles. Hard water also requires more soap to lather fully. The degree of water hardness varies depending on where you live. Newark's water in this area typically has a hardness level of 47 to 60 parts per million which means it is moderately soft.

### WHY IS THERE CHORINE IN MY WATER?

A century ago, acute diseases such as typhoid fever and cholera were a very real threat to our health because the microorganisms that caused these diseases were found in public drinking water. However, for almost 100 years, water suppliers in America and other countries have used chlorine to treat or disinfect drinking water. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other health agencies, chlorine is currently one of the most effective disinfectants to kill harmful microorganisms. Disinfection of all public water supplies is required by federal and state laws and regulations, including the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Surface Water Treatment Rule.

### WHAT IS TURBIDITY?

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. The City monitors it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfection.

### DOES NEWARK ADD FLUORIDE TO MY WATER?

No. Newark does not add fluoride to the water in your community. However, a small amount of fluoride may occur naturally in your water. About 0.10 parts per million fluoride was detected in your water supply last year.

### ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO NEWARKERS

You may have noticed media attention to public water supply issues related to radiological substances, mercury, lead, radon, arsenic and *Cryptosporidium*. At Newark, we are well aware of these and other water quality matters. We have performed – and continue to perform – extensive testing of all of our water supplies. We want to assure our customers that we are providing the high-quality water you expect and deserve. You may be interested to know the following information:

- **Radiological Substances:** Our tests show the radiological substances level in our water supplies is significantly less than the level deemed acceptable by the U.S. EPA. In some cases, the level is so low that it cannot be detected. These substances are naturally occurring radioactive compounds.
- **Mercury:** Our testing equipment can detect mercury at a level 10 times less than the standard, and even at that low level, we have not detected mercury in our supplies.
- **Lead:** If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Newark is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

- The concentration of lead leaving the NJDWSC (Wanaque) and Newark Pequannock Water Treatment Plants is far below the action level (AL) of 15 parts per billion mandated by the U.S. EPA Lead and Copper rule (most times it is non-detectable). We have analyzed 26 first drawn samples each from the Wanaque and Pequannock level distribution system in Newark and only one sample from each distribution level showed above 15 parts per billion concentration. Laboratory analyses of lead samples from Newark households after the tap is running 30 seconds has shown that lead concentrations are consistently below the Action Level of 15 parts per billion. Consumers are encouraged to employ the technique of flushing the tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using the water for cooking or drinking when the water has remained stagnant in the pipes for long periods of time. It should be noted that infants and children, who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical and mental development. Children could show deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Also, adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

- **Sodium:** For healthy individuals, the sodium intake from water is not important, because a much greater intake of sodium takes place from salt in the diet. However, sodium levels above the recommended upper limit may be of concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet.

- **Cryptosporidium:** Lakes, rivers, and reservoirs may contain this tiny microbe. It is found in feces of humans and many domestic and wild animals. We test for *Cryptosporidium* on a monthly basis in our Pequannock finished water surface water supplies. It has never been detected in a viable state in any of our treated water supplies. Neither has it been found in the Wanaque Supply.

- **Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAAs):** Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids are formed when raw water is treated with chlorine. Chlorine is used as a disinfectant to inactivate the disease causing organisms in the water. Trihalomethanes are a group of four chemicals: Chloroform, Bromodichloromethane, Dibromochloromethane, and Bromoform. The Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of Total Trihalomethanes in drinking water is 80 parts per billion. The five regulated Haloacetic Acids are monochloroacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid, monobromoacetic acid and tribromoacetic acid. The Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for Haloacetic Acids is 60 parts per billion. The United States Environmental Protection Agency has set the MCL for both TTHMs and HAAs because they are cancer causing contaminants. The City of Newark water supply met the MCL standards for both TTHMs and HAAs.

- **Failure to collect the required number of samples for Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids during the years 2004 and 2005:** We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During all four quarters in the years 2004 and 2005 we did not collect the required number of samples to monitor the concentration of Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAAs) in the water. We are required to collect five samples during each quarter, analyze the results and report the results. We only collected four samples from the Pequannock distribution system and failed to collect the fifth sample from the maximum residence location in the Wanaque distribution system as required by the NJ State Safe Drinking Water Regulations.

There is nothing you need to do. There is no corrective action. You can continue to drink the water. We have been collecting and reporting the results of five samples for Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009. If a situation arises where the water is not safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours. We will announce any emergencies on the local TV, cable service and radio in the City of Newark in case of any emergencies. We will also put the information in the official web site of the City of Newark: [www.ci.newark.nj.us](http://www.ci.newark.nj.us)

### SUBSTANCES THAT MAY BE PRESENT IN WELLS, LAKES, RESERVOIRS, AND OTHER UNTREATED SOURCES

These substances include:

- **Microbes** such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic substances** such as salts and metals that can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

- **Pesticides and herbicides** that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical substances** including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive substances** that can be naturally occurring or can be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain substances in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for substances in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

The Safe Drinking Water Act regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate the monitoring requirements for asbestos, volatile organic chemicals and synthetic organic chemicals. Our system received monitoring waivers for asbestos and synthetic organic chemicals.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Water systems with uncovered finished water reservoirs are required to eliminate or cover these reservoirs, treat the discharge from these reservoirs, or be in compliance with a state approved schedule to eliminate or cover the reservoirs or provide treatment by April 1, 2009. We have executed an Administrative Consent Order with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection wherein Newark is required to develop a plan and implementation schedule to eliminate, cover or provide treatment for our uncovered reservoir.

### REQUIRED ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION

- **Special considerations regarding children, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and others:** Children may receive slightly higher amount of a contaminant present in their water than adults, on a body weight basis, because they may drink a greater amount of water per pound of body weight than adults do. For this reason reproductive or development effects are used for calculating a drinking water standard if these effects occur at lower levels than other health effects of concern. If there is insufficient toxicity information for a chemical, an extra uncertainty factor may be incorporated into the calculation of drinking water standard, thus making the standard more stringent, to account for uncertainties regarding these effects. In the case of lead and nitrate, effects on infants and children are the health endpoints upon which the standards are based.
- **Nitrate:** Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.
- **Lead:** Infants and young children are typically vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the vicinity as a result of materials used in your home plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home water, you may wish to flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water hotline at **1-800-426-4791**.
- **Arsenic:** To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline: **1-800-426-4791**.

The PWSID for Pequannock System is 0714001 and Wanaque system is 1613001. Funding for the City of Newark's Annual Water Quality Report is provided by the Municipal Budget for the Department of Water and Sewer Utilities.

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# 2009 PEQUANNOCK AND WANAQUE WATER SYSTEMS ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT



CORY A. BOOKER, MAYOR

This report contains important information about our drinking water. If you do not understand it, please have someone translate it for you.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Este reporte contém informações importantes sobre a sua água de beber. Traduza-o ou fale com alguém que o compreenda.



# 2009 PEQUANNOCK AND WANAQUE WATER SYSTEMS ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

This is an annual report on the quality of water delivered by City of Newark. It meets the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirement for "Consumer Confidence Reports" and contains information on the source of our water, its constituents, and the health risks associated with any contaminants. Safe water is vital to our community. Please read this report carefully and, if you have questions, call the numbers listed below.

Call us for information about the next opportunity for public participation in decisions about our drinking water at **973-733-6303**. Find out more about the City of Newark on the Internet at: **www.ci.newark.nj.us**

The Newark Water System is a public community water system consisting of 0 well(s), 0 wells under the influence of surface water, 1 surface water intake(s), 1 purchased ground water source(s).

This system's source water comes from the following aquifer(s) and/or surface water body(s) (if applicable): Charlottesville Reservoir.

This system purchases water from the water system(s) (if applicable): ELIZABETHOWN WC, North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (NJDWSC).

## SUSCEPTIBILITY RATINGS FOR NEWARK WATER DEPARTMENT SOURCES.

The table at right illustrates the susceptibility ratings for the seven contaminant categories (and radon) for each source in the system. The table provides the number of wells and intakes that rated high (H), medium (M), or low (L) for each contaminant category. For susceptibility ratings of purchased water, refer to the specific water system's source assessment report.

The seven contaminant categories are defined at the bottom of this page. DEP considered all surface water highly susceptible to pathogens, therefore all intakes received a high rating for the pathogen category. For the purpose of Source Water Assessment Program, radionuclides are more of a concern for ground water than surface water. As a result, surface water intake's susceptibility to radionuclides was not determined and they all received a low rating.

If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contaminant category, it does not mean a customer is or will be consuming contaminated drinking water. The rating reflects the potential for contamination of source water, not the existence of contamination. Public water systems are required to monitor for regulated contaminants and to install treatment if any contaminants are detected at frequencies and concentrations above allowable levels. As a result of the assessments, DEP may customize (change existing) monitoring schedules based on the susceptibility ratings.

- **Pathogens:** Disease-causing organisms such as bacteria and viruses. Common sources are animal and human fecal wastes.
- **Nutrients:** Compounds, minerals and elements that aid growth, that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include nitrogen and phosphorus.
- **Volatile Organic Compounds:** Man-made chemicals used as solvents, degreasers, and gasoline components. Examples include benzene, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), and vinyl chloride.

- **Pesticides:** Man-made chemicals used to control pests, weeds and fungus. Common sources include land application and manufacturing centers of pesticides. Examples include herbicides such as atrazine, and insecticides such as chlordane.
- **Inorganics:** Mineral-based compounds that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include arsenic, asbestos, copper, lead, and nitrate.
- **Radionuclides:** Radioactive substances that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include radium and uranium.
- **Radon:** Colorless, odorless substances, cancer-causing gas that occurs naturally in the environment. For more information go to: [www.nj.gov.dep/rpp/radon/index.htm](http://www.nj.gov.dep/rpp/radon/index.htm) or call 1-800-648-0394.
- **Disinfection Byproduct Precursors:** A common source is naturally occurring organic matter in surface water. Disinfection byproducts are formed when disinfectants (usually chlorine) used to kill pathogens react with dissolved organic material (for example leaves) present in surface water.

## Overview

### WATER SOURCE

The City of Newark's water comes entirely from surface sources in the Pequannock and Wanaque watersheds that cover 150 square miles of forestlands in Morris, Sussex and Passaic Counties. Newark's Pequannock Supply is from five pristine water supply reservoirs; the 14.4 billion gallon supply is from Charlottesville, Echo Lake, Canistear, Clinton and Oak Ridge reservoirs. NJDWSC gets its water from two of the most pristine water supply reservoirs in the country; namely, the 29.6 billion gallon Wanaque and the 7 billion gallon Monksville. The Commission also operates two pump stations designed to pump 250 million gallons per day of water from the Pompton River and 150 million gallons per day from the Ramapo River into the Wanaque Reservoir as needed. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has completed Source Water Assessment Reports and Summaries for all Public Water Systems (PWS). Further information on the source water assessment program can be obtained by logging on to NJDEP's source water assessment website at [www.state.nj.us/dep/swap](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/swap) or by contacting NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at **609-292-5550**. You may also contact the City of Newark Water Department at **973-733-5361**.

The City of Newark was required to conduct the UCMR sampling and testing for the Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule (UCMR). During this testing no UCMR contaminants were detected.

### SAFEGUARDING OUR WATER

The City of Newark Water Treatment plant is located in West Milford and the NJDWSC Water Treatment Plant is located in Wanaque, NJ, where the water is purified and filtered to ensure its safety and potability. To ensure the safety of the water, NJDWSC and Newark routinely monitors and tests the water at rivers, lakes and streams that supply its reservoirs. We continually monitor the quality of water throughout the distribution system, which finds its way to you, the consumer. All analyses are conducted by NJDEP-certified water testing laboratories.

### CERTIFIED WATER QUALITY LABORATORIES.

In response to the events of September 11, and to the State's Domestic Security Preparedness Act, Newark has completed a vulnerability assessment of its water supplies, treatment plant and transmission system, provided additional security, and reviewed operations to include a greater emphasis on security issues. The City is taking the necessary proactive steps to implement the conclusions of this study.

## NEWARK'S WATER QUALITY REPORT 2009

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS	UNITS	MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL GOAL (MCLG)	MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL)	PEQUANNOCK SYSTEM RESULT	NJDWSC RESULTS	SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
<i>Inorganic Contaminants:</i>						
Arsenic	ppb	0	10	0.300	0.200	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass & electronics production wastes.
Barium	ppm	2	2	< 0.010	0.010	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Mercury	ppm	2	2	<0.035	0.038	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories.
Copper	ppm	1.3	A L = 1.3	0.005	0.005	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.050	0.029	Erosion of natural deposits; additive promoting strong teeth. Discharge from fertilizer and AL factories.
Lead	ppb	0	A L = 1.5	0-0.5	0-0.5	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	0.050	0.210	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
<i>Microbiological Substances:</i>						
Total Coliform Bacteria	Presence of positive sample	0	5% of monthly samples are positive	0	0	Naturally present in the environment
<i>Turbidity</i>						
Turbidity	NTU	N/A	Less than 5% of samples exceed 0.3 NTU	0.02-0.36	0.15	Soil runoff
<i>Volatile Organic Compounds</i>						
VOCs	ppb		MCL dependent on specific VOC	ND		VOC=S come from industrial chemical factory discharges. They include benzene, toluene and naphthalene.
<i>Treatment By-products</i>						
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	ppb	NA	80	53.0-77.0 Average = 63.8	61	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acid	ppb	NA	60	36.0-56.0 Average = 45.6	33	By-product of drinking water disinfection
SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS	UNITS		SECONDARY MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (SMCL)	PEQUANNOCK SYSTEM RESULT	NJDWSC RESULTS	SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Alkalinity	ppm		NS	28.2	30.2	A characteristic of water caused primarily by carbonate, bicarbonate and hydroxide ions.
Aluminum	ppm		0.2	< 0.1	0.025	By-product of water treatment using aluminum salts.
Calcium	ppm		NS	14.2		Erosion of natural deposits.
Chloride	ppm		250	35.3	46.1	Erosion of natural deposits.
Chlorine Residual	ppm		4	1.00	1.09	Chlorine remaining in treated water and available to destroy disease causing organisms.
Color	CU		15	5	2	Presence of manganese and iron, plankton, humus, peat and weeds.
Hardness	ppm		50-250	53.7	56	A characteristic of water caused primarily by salts of calcium and magnesium.
Magnesium	ppm		NS	3.65		Erosion of natural deposits
Odor	TON		3	1		Algae and plant matter.
pH	units		6.5-8.5	7.77	8.01	Presence of carbonates, bicarbonates and carbon dioxide.
Sodium	ppm		50	18.9	24.7	Runoff from road salt and from some water softening processes.
Sulfate	ppm		250	11.4	10.5	Drainage of mining wastes, erosion of natural deposits.
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm		500	130	131	Erosion of natural deposits.
Zinc	ppm		5	< 0.2	0.009	Erosion of natural deposits; pipe corrosion and/or runoff.

## SUSCEPTIBILITY RATINGS FOR NEWARK'S WATER DEPARTMENT SOURCES

	PATHOGENS			NUTRIENTS			PESTICIDES			VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS			INORGANICS			RADIONUCLIDES			RADON			DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCT PRECURSORS		
	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L
WELLS = 0																								
GUI - 1																								
SURFACE WATER INTAKES - 1	1					1			1			1	1					1			1	1		

### KEY:

The table below shows the results of our water quality analyses. The table contains the name of the substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health, the amount detected, the usual sources of such contamination, footnotes explaining our findings, and a key to units of measurement. Definitions of MCL, MRDL, MRDLG and MCLG are important.

- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.
- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers
- treatment or other requirement that a water system must follow.
- **Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **ppm (parts per million):** 1 drop in 10 gallons, 1 inch in 16 miles, or one penny in \$10,000.
- **ppb (parts per billion):** 1 drop in 10,000 gallons, 1 inch in 16,000 miles, or one penny in \$10,000,000.
- **picoCurie (pCi):** A unit used to describe the level of activity or decay of a radioactive element.
- **MFL:** million fibers per liter.
- **mrem/year:** millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body).
- **NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units.
- **pCi/l:** pico curies per liter (a measure of radioactivity).
- **ppt:** parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter.
- **ppq:** parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter.
- **Secondary Contaminants:** Federal drinking water measurements for substances that are not health related. These are recommended levels and reflect aesthetic qualities of water.
- **SMCL:** Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level.
- **TON:** Threshold Odor Number.
- **NS:** No Standard.
- **ND:** Not detectable at testing limit.